

Appendix A: Previous action on training techniques and public safety efforts

Expanding Crisis Intervention Training (CIT)

In reviewing the issue of Less Lethal Weapons it became clear that a first line responder will encounter individuals suffering from mental illness or some type of crisis as a regular part of his/her day. In an effort to address the needs of the mentally ill, the Seattle Police Department is launching a creative approach to provide street-based intervention and services: The Crisis Intervention Team and Mental Health Partnership Pilot Project. This will build on the success of the Neighborhood Corrections Initiative and address the needs of the mentally ill.

CIT officers will work directly with mental health care professionals provided by a selected mental health agency. As daily work partners, the designated CIT officer and mental health professional will work proactively to get individuals in crisis suffering from mental illness and/or drug abuse the proper treatment, as well as housing and social services. By providing mentally ill and chemically dependent individuals with street level assessments and referral services the pilot project hopes to avoid using the more costly interventions such as jail, emergency rooms and hospitals. Funding for the pilot project comes from the fiscal year 2009 Justice Assistance Grant.

Mental Health Professional

The Seattle Police Department is contracting with a mental health provider to pair a mental health professional with police to help identify people with significant untreated issues in order to better deliver the treatment services they need. This effort, announced in May 2010, will begin in early October. Funding for this pilot project will be provided by a \$250,000 fiscal year 2009 Justice Assistance Grant. More details can be found at the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/3yngvbp>.

Small pilot project to assess viability of wearable body cameras for officers

The department is conducting a survey of police departments across the country and researching different vendors to see how practical individual body cameras for officers would be. The mayor supports this project first proposed by Councilmember Bruce Harrell. Currently, there are video cameras mounted in the patrol cars.

Perspectives in Profiling

Employees continue to be trained in Perspectives in Profiling, an eight-hour training class the department has selected in support of the City's Race and Social Justice Initiative. To date, over 700 employees have attended.

Less Lethal Weapons

The Department is looking to expand the number of officers that are equipped with Tasers.

Verbal Judo training classes

53 officers recently attended a Verbal Judo training class. Verbal Judo is the art of communication. One utilizes this technique to gain verbal control of situations in order to bring about peace and stability. This is one amongst many different options the Department is currently evaluating for additional training of its officers.

Street Skills

The Seattle Police Department is one of the few agencies that mandate annual in-service training for all sworn employees. Street Skills is a mandatory four day course. It covers a wide variety of new skills and refresher courses, such as defensive tactics, handcuffing, and demonstration management. The course also focuses on best practices in addressing customer service, why complaints occur and how to reduce them, and the perceptions of police officers and citizens.

Increasing foot patrols

Then Interim Police Chief John Diaz and Mayor Mike McGinn announced an effort in March to increase foot patrols in and around downtown neighborhoods. This effort redeploys some bicycle patrols to foot beats in Belltown, Pioneer Square and the International District. Foot beats increase police visibility and presence by providing more direct interactions with people on the street.

Late Night Public Safety Initiative

Announced in June 2010, the Late Night Public Safety Initiative is a citywide effort to put more officers on the streets without sacrificing any existing missions in the department. The redeployment of these additional resources will provide approximately 20-plus officers on Friday and Saturday nights with the specific mission of maintaining a visible and uniformed presence to deter crime and promote safety.

Police reports available online

It is now easier for the public to access police reports. This new system replaces the old system of redacted reports on CD-ROMs available at selected police precincts when the Department went “paperless” in 2007.

Since January of this year, Department staff from SPD IT, the Public Requests Unit, Data Center, Records Files and the City of Seattle DoIT Web Team have worked together to create internet based access to police reports. This access is provided via a user authenticated website similar to other web applications provided by the City of Seattle.

Mapping crime online

The Department has been working closely with the city’s Department of Information Technology to provide enhanced information on crime to the public. This new application provides the public access to information, supporting department transparency and public safety.

This new information is an added service layer to Seattle's My Neighborhood Maps already available online at www.seattle.gov . The Police Reports Map shows mapped crime icons based on initial police reports taken by officers when responding to incidents around the city. After the information enters the Department's Records Management System it populates this map.